

Message Text

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72-L

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10

SS-20 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 104352

R 121738Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8681

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16387

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL: GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: INITIAL GERMAN REACTION TO SOVIET

PROPOSALS IN VIENNA

REF: VIENNA 9248 (LIMDIS)

1. RUTH TOLD EMBOFF NOV 12 THAT SOVIET MBFR PROPOSALS
AT VIENNA HAD NOT COME AS MAJOR SURPRISES IN BONN.
WHILE SOVIET DRAFT DID TEND TO STEP UP THE TEMPO OF
EARLY PHASES OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, RUTH CONSIDERED
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SOVIET PROPOSALS TO BE ESSENTIALLY A FILLING OUT OF

WHAT BREZHNEV HAD ALREADY HINTED AT.

2. RUTH THOUGHT THE SOVIET PRESENTATION HAD SEVERAL PURPOSES. ONE WAS AN EFFORT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AWAY FROM THE WEST. HE STATED FLATLY THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL. A SECOND MAJOR SOVIET PURPOSE, IN RUTH'S VIEW, WAS OF A "POLITICAL PROPAGANDA CHARACTER."

3. RUTH THOUGHT SOVIETS WOULD BE SEEKING TO PROBE THE WEST CONCERNING WHICH ASPECTS OF THE ALLIED PROPOSALS MIGHT BE MORE OR LESS IMPORTANT. MOSCOW WOULD BE WAITING TO SEE WHICH PROPOSALS THE WEST WOULD BE PREPARED TO DROP, AND THE RUSSIANS THEN WOULD BE LIKELY TO COME IN DUE COURSE WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS REFLECTING WESTERN REACTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN RUTH'S VIEW FOR THE WEST TO COMPLETE ITS INITIAL PRESENTATIONS AND THEN PROCEED IN SOMEWHAT QUICKER MANNER THAN INITIALLY PLANNED, WHILE ADHERING CLOSELY TO AGREED ALLIED POSITION.

4. RUTH EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT "SYMBOLIC" TYPE PROPOSALS FREQUENTLY ACCOMPANYING SOVIET MBFR POSTURE. HE REFERRED TO EARLIER BREZHNEV "WINE TASTING FILLIP" AT TBILISI AND REACTED VERY CAUTIOUSLY TO "SYMBOLIC" 20,000 MAN CUTS ON BOTH SIDES. IN CLOSING, RUTH SAID HE ASSUMED INITIAL SOVIET DRAFT WAS PREPARED WITH "LEAKED WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION ON THE DESK BESIDE IT." HE ASSUMES SOVIETS HAVE FALL BACK POSITIONS IN DESK DRAWER, WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT MOSCOW CONSIDERS ARE ACTUAL WESTERN OBJECTIVES.
HILLENBRAND

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